4a Wilson G-3 (no date) 1937 MHI Iraq MHI
Iraq Bedouin MHI

I 162 The population of Mosul and Arbil provinces exceeds 630,000, of which 530,000 are Muslims. Of these Muslims, all but 10,000 are Sunnis. There are 60,000 Christians, 32,000 Yezidis and 10,000 Jews. The minorities therefore total only one-fifth of the whole. The Muslims consist of Arabs and Kurds in approximately equal parts, together with some 16,000 Turkomans.

I [162] 438 439 496 Mosul itself is mainly an Arab town with a population of 100,000. It is a great entrepôt for trade in sheep, cattle, wool, grain, hides, intestines, galls and eggs with the thickly populated districts round and also with Syria and Turkey. Its importance in this respect will certainly increase when at long last it is linked by rail with the Syrian frontier at Tel Kuchik and with Baghdad via Baa'iji. Work on this linking is now proceeding, and it is interesting to remember that when it is completed in a couple of years it will form the last stage in the famous Baghdad-Berlin Railway which was the Kaiser's fondest dream. The circumstances under which it will be completed are likely, however, to be very different to those which he visualized.

Arabs

I B 101 Apart from forming the majority of the inhabitants of Mosul itself, Arabs are found as cultivators on the Tigris both north and south of the town and to the south of the Jebal Sinjar (Sinjar mountain) and as bedouin who range the uncultivated areas to the south-west, west and north-west.

B 619 221 721 233 The bedouin consist of more than one tribe, but by far the most important is the Shammar. This great tribe is of Arabian origin and has in the past been pushed steadily northwards by economic forces and the search for new grazing grounds. With the great improvement in public security during recent years, cultivation has extended further and further from the towns and villages and encroached on the haunts of the Shammar. Formerly the means of livelihood of these bedouin were varied if not all respectable. They included the raiding of the flocks and herds of their weaker neighbours and the extortion of "khuwa" or safe-conduct money from merchants, travellers and others. At the same time they made a perfectly legitimate living from acting as shepherds for the flocks of townsmen and by breeding and selling camels. Nowadays raiding and safe-conduct money have been abolished and motor transport has to a great extent ousted the camel as a carrier in 'Iraq and the neighbouring countries and caused a severe slump in the camel market.

41 Wilson G-3 (no date) 1927 MHI Iraq MHI
Kurd MHI

Air Force. The terrain was exceedingly mountainous and thickly wooded and there were many caves in which to shelter from bombs or machine-gunning from the air. The Shaikh's followers, too, were very hardy and mobile. Without very efficient air action, which aimed at destroying the morale of the Kurds by perpetually harassing them rather than by slaying them, to gain a definite result would have been a very costly affair. As it was the Shaikh and his followers were eventually driven into Turkey and after surrendering to the Turkish authorities were handed over to the 'Iraq Government. It was found that the Shaikh, his brothers and the remnants of the standing army could not fit in with any regular administration, and so they have been settled in small bodies in southern Kurdistan near Sulimani, where they will not be in a position to cause further trouble. The Barzanis have now reverted to the Islamic faith.

Roads

What has really tamed the Kurds is the Government policy of making roads through the mountains, just as General Wade did in Scotland with similar results. Good roads now exist from Arbil, where Alexander the Great defeated King Darius III. in 331 B.C., to the Persian frontier at Rayat and from Dohuq to Amadia. Both these roads represent considerable engineering feats and carry a good volume of traffic. The Rowanduz road was that which a nomadic Kurdish tribe, the Herki, with their 60,000 animals, used on their annual migrations from 'Iraq to their summer grazing grounds in Iran. During recent years difficulties arose between the nomads and the 'Irani Government, and the former now remain in 'Iraq for the summer. It has not been easy to find grazing for them there, as other nomadic tribes had already been forbidden by the Turkish Government to graze in Turkey and had occupied practically all the spare grazing. The 'Iraq Government, too, has been attempting to popularize summer resorts in Kurdistan and so prevent the flow of money to Syria and the Lebanon, where good summer amenities exist. I am afraid, however, that so far this policy has not been very successful. Good summer resorts require the expenditure of much money, and the attempts at providing suitable summer accommodation have, I regret, tended to spoil what was originally beautiful scenery.

The little town of Zakho in western Kurdistan has greatly benefited by the improvement in public security and communications and is

4: Wilson G-3 (no date) 1937 MH1 Iraq MH1
Kurd MA II

I K 438 439 173 782 539

now a flourishing market for the surrounding country and for trade with Turkey. It has one feature of great interest: an ancient bridge of Roman design, known locally as "Alexander's bridge," though unlikely to be in any way connected with the great conqueror. Tradition at Zakho has, however, another tale of the construction of the bridge. It is said to have been built by a celebrated local governor, who found that the keystone would not remain in place. He summoned a soothsayer, who proclaimed that it would never stand until a life had been built into the arch. The governor accepted the verdict and with his councillors, who were sworn to secrecy, decided that the first living thing to follow them on to the bridge the next morning would provide the necessary victim. They waited for some hours, but no one came. Then the governor's little daughter wondered why her father was so long away and taking her pet dog she set off to look for him. Her father was at first terrified when he saw her coming, but was relieved when he noticed that her dog was running in front of her. Alas, she thought it unfitting for the dog to approach her father before she did and so she called it and stepped on to the bridge. Public opinion compelled the governor to carry out the sacrifice and the girl was built into the centre of the arch and the keystone held and has gone on holding for hundreds of years.

I K 653 185

The development of Kurdistan has naturally not been popular with all the Kurds, and I remember an interesting incident. During the construction of the Amadia road, an elderly Agha stood for a while sadly watching the blasting of a pulpit of overhanging rock. When echoes of the explosion had died and the last fragments of stone had fallen into the rocky gorge below, he turned sorrowfully away. "The old days, the old days," he lamented. "Many is the time I lay behind that rock with my rifle and held up caravans for safe-conduct money."

I K 721 361

The town of Amadia, which, like Edinburgh Castle, is situated on a rocky plateau at a height of 4,100 feet, sixteen feet higher than Cairn Gorm, is now easily accessible by road. The town was formerly ruled by semi-independent Pashas who admitted a nominal suzerainty to the Turkish authorities. It has a stormy history, and the minaret of the mosque is pitted with bullet holes. These are souvenirs of 1925, when the Barzan Kurds, in alliance with some of the descendants of the old rulers of Amadia, attacked the town and succeeded in surrounding the Mosuli qaimaqam and a handful of police in the Government serai. The stout-hearted garrison held out until they were rescued by a body of Assyrians under the Assyrian bishop, Mar Sergis, a jovial Friar Tuck of the Nesterian Church.

J19

needed to prove the extent and quality of the ores located. This work has gone till now rather tardily, owing to the inadequate funds at the disposal of the Directorate General on Minerals. There also seems to be no clear policy as to how this wealth should be exploited: whether by the State directly or by concession to national or foreign enterprise. 135

Another factor delaying work in this field is the difficulty of transport to and from the sites of the ore deposits which are remotely situated in desert and mountain. [489]

Oil and gas are indeed plentiful in Iraq, and the exploitation of oil resources has indirectly helped to finance the industrial development so far achieved. But the cost of oil fuel and other oil products for local consumption is not much lower than in other countries because of the high rate of taxes on consumption. This and the limited range of oil products so far made in Iraq by the Alwand refinery, owned by the Anglo-Iranian Oil Co., have led to the import of a number of oil products from abroad. But the situation should change when the State-owned refinery, now under construction, goes into production. 382

Another problem connected with the supply of fuel is the lack of electric power. Power generation in Iraq is inefficiently organised and power rates, except in Basrah and Baghdad in recent years, are among the highest in the world. This has compelled most industries to generate their own power which has added a great deal to production cost. The recent reduction of power rates and the availability of electricity in Baghdad has been one of the major reasons for the concentration of industry in that city. 371

(3) Concentration of Industry: Industry in Iraq is heavily concentrated in the city of Baghdad which has a population of 550,000 inhabitants, in other words a little more than ten percent of the country's population. Excluding oil and one or two small textile, tanning, and grain-milling industries, all modern industry has been established in or near Baghdad, thus adding to the population and housing problems of the capital. There are many reasons for this concentration of industry. All routes converge on Baghdad; it has the largest population and, as the seat of Government, it offers easy access to the central authority. As an old trading centre Baghdad has a well-organised market, large financial resources, and managerial and office staffs. Some of the factors that have made Baghdad 438 [366]

438 more attractive for industry than other areas can be corrected by
[365] proper action. First and foremost is the relative cheapness of power and fuel in Baghdad. The cost of the electric power unit in most cities is double that of Baghdad and rarely is a municipality-owned plant able to supply sufficient power to industry. The cost of oil fuel is at least ten percent higher outside Baghdad. The correction of these factors, together with a more equal distribution of educational, housing, transport and social welfare facilities, could greatly relieve the situation. The Law for the Encouragement of Industry could also be amended so as to give additional concessions for industries established in other parts of the country. The cost of labour and land is already becoming burdensome for industry in Baghdad. This, in addition to the social evil of overcrowdedness, calls for immediate consideration.

434 (4) **Limitation of Markets**: A newly industrialised country can hardly hope to find foreign markets for its finished products. It has to depend on its home market. The market in Iraq, with its small population (about 5 million inhabitants), of low purchasing power (annual income per head is estimated at between £ 20 and £ 30 or $85), affords very limited scope for large-scale industry. Many of the industries studied at one time by the Industrial Bank, such as the making of artificial silk fibres, the manufacture of paper and cardboard from straw, and the printing of cotton piece-goods, had to be abandoned because the smallest economic unit of these plants is much beyond the capacity of the Iraqi market to support. This situation will no doubt improve as the whole economy of the coun-
439 try expands. But it should be possible to deal with this situation
648 more effectively by joint action on the part of the Arab States, along lines already discussed at high political level. These discussions have had the object of reducing or abolishing inter-state tariff barriers so as to make the whole area one market. Such an action is indeed vital to the progress and prosperity of these countries and their peoples. It should be remembered that before World War I, these countries formed one economic and political unit under the Ottoman Empire.

464 (5) **Labour, Technical Staff and Management Problems**: The supply of ordinary labour, owing to the high rate of population increase (estimated to be one and a half per cent per annum) and emigration from country to town, is quite sufficient and will remain so

7: International Bank N, S-4 (1951) 1952 MH1 Iraq MH1

311 waters of the twin rivers are largely wasted and periodically unloosen disastrous floods upon Baghdad and the alluvial plain to the south.

The Rain-fed Zone

241 438 In the upland plains of the rain-fed zone stretching from Northern Mosul to Suleimaniya, wheat and barley are the principal crops. Rainfall is generally inadequate for summer crops, although water from streams and springs permit cultivation of rice and cotton. In part of this area, especially Northern Mosul, there has been a rapid extension of cultivation with the help of modern agricultural machinery.

233 438 241 To the north and northeast lie the mountain massifs of Iraq. Here the raising of cattle, sheep and goats by Kurdish nomads is one of the principal occupations. The mountains are largely barren of trees but offer natural pasture for animals. In the valleys and on hillsides grain, tobacco, timber and fruit are grown. Tobacco, although small in area, is an important cash crop.

438 433 [315] Except for some handicrafts, there is little native industry in this region. Mosul, the second largest city in Iraq, is principally a commercial center and an outlet for exports to Syria and Lebanon. Kirkuk, however, is the center of most of Iraq's petroleum production and one of the largest and richest oil fields in the world. Oil fields of subsidiary importance also exist at Ain Zaleh in Mosul province and near Khanaqin in Diyala province. The mountains of the North may ultimately yield other minerals such as copper, chrome and iron.

The Irrigation Zone

133 311 South of the rain-fed zone the river valleys may be divided into three major regions: the upper river valleys; the lower river valley down to Amara and Nasiriya; and the triangular area from Nasiriya and Amara to the mouth of the Shatt al Arab.

The first of these regions includes most of the northern Jezireh and the area north of Baghdad and east of the Tigris. The latter area still awaits irrigation for the most part, and the Jezireh is hardly susceptible to irrigation because of the elevation and configuration of the land. The Jezireh is an upland plateau

7: International Bank N, S-4 (1951) 1952 MH1 Iraq MH1

relieved by low ranges and depressed areas of which the major one is the Wadi Tharthar. It is sparsely inhabited by pastoral nomads although in the North some settled farming, made speculative by irregular rainfall, is carried on.

The second region, extending downstream from Ramadi on the Euphrates and Baghdad on the Tigris and including the Diyala River Valley, is the area where most irrigation projects have been carried out in the past. Pump irrigation predominates on the banks of the three rivers where the land is high and water is easily accessible. For the more remote areas flow irrigation is provided by canals dependent on the Hindiya barrage on the Euphrates, the Kut barrage on the Tigris and the Diyala weir on the Diyala River. Here flow irrigation between the two main rivers is facilitated by the fact that in the Baghdad region the Euphrates is higher than the Tigris, while below Baghdad the Tigris is above the Euphrates. In this region barley is the principal winter crop, followed by wheat. Summer crops are limited by lack of water, but among them cotton has become in recent years by far the most prominent, leaving sorghum, sesame, green gram, corn and millet far behind. Fruit culture is important. Dates are widely grown, both for domestic consumption and for export; and the Diyala Valley in particular produces excellent citrus fruit. Rice is an important crop between Nejf and Diwaniya on the Euphrates and around Rumaitha farther down the river. The country's major concentration of population lies in the region comprising the district about Baghdad and the provinces of Hilla, Kerbela and parts of Kut and Diwaniya. It includes the capital, Baghdad, a city with a population of 550,000 and the leading commercial and industrial center of the country.

The third region—the Basra, Nasiriya, Amara triangle—is generally one vast marsh during the spring floods. Here the rural dwellings are of reeds and brushwood, in contrast to the rest of the country where mud huts and, in the mountains of the North, stone houses predominate. Rice grown in the naturally inundated marshland is the staple food, varied by fish; and the water buffalo is the prevailing type of livestock. Here also is the world's largest date palm belt stretching along both sides of the Shatt al Arab and contributing one of Iraq's principal exports. Basra, Iraq's only port, is the largest city of this region and handles most of the country's foreign trade.

7: International Bank N, S-4 (1951) 1952 MH1 Iraq MH1

438 country's foreign trade. Near it is the country's second largest oil field.

133 311 233 To the south and southwest of the irrigation zone lie the vast arid tracts known as the southern and northern deserts which comprise about 40 percent of the land area of Iraq. These are sparsely inhabited by roaming nomads who raise camels, goats and sheep and annually take their flocks into the river valleys in search of summer pasture.

II. The People

161 The first official census of the settled population in Iraq was taken in 1947 and preliminary statistics on the male and female population of each province have already been published.[1] The preliminary estimate of the enumerated population was approximately 4.6 million. This figure has been brought up to 4.8 million in the published statistics by adding a rough estimate of 200,000 for the nomads in Mosul province and in the provinces along the Euphrates. Like all other countries at a similar stage of development, Iraq has a very young population, about half being under the age of 20. Although no reliable vital statistics are available, all indications point on the one hand to a very high rate of mortality among infants and young children, and on the other, to a correspondingly high birth rate. Even under the present poor health conditions the population seems to have been increasing at a rate conjectured to be in the region of one to one and a half percent per annum. Whatever the present rate, however, it is clear that, if full advantage is taken of the ample opportunity to improve health

[1] Considering the attendant difficulties, this census may be judged a success. The information about the people of Iraq which it has already yielded and, more especially, which it can yield when tabulation is completed, is without doubt far more reliable than any estimates previously made. However, as with most first attempts at census-taking, the results have to be interpreted with great caution. Besides the figures already published, the Mission had access to certain unpublished data on four provinces—Baghdad, Mosul, Kirkuk and Basra. Much of the description of the population which follows is based on this data, but it must be noted that, although allowance was made for the fact that these four provinces are a most imperfect cross-section of the country, this fact is an additional limitation to the validity of any but the broadest conclusions.

7: International Bank N, S-4 (1951) 1952 MH1 Iraq MH1

361 The Mission has noted elsewhere other defects in the Dujaila settlement: the large administrative staff, the tendency of the settlers to become minor landlords, the lack of participation by the Department of Agriculture, and the rapid deterioration of the soil owing to bad drainage. It has been made too elaborate and there has been insufficient coordination of effort. As a result, the settler relies too much on the benefits he has been given and too little on self-help, largely because self-help has not been aided in the way it should be by the concerted action of the appropriate government departments.

III. Urban Communities

The municipalities in Iraq range from Baghdad, the capital, with well over half a million inhabitants down to small towns with less than a thousand inhabitants. They cannot, therefore, be considered as a homogeneous group. The largest of them have certain distinctive functions.

361 438 Baghdad is the seat of the government, the center of much of the wholesale trade and the hub of the rail and road systems. Since the war, a number of modern factories have been built so that industry is now becoming an important element. It is a rapidly growing city, a particularly large influx having occurred during the war. Growth has taken place along both banks of the Tigris, expansion away from the river being limited by the bunds, which protect the city from flood.

Mosul, the second largest city, has less than a quarter of the population of Baghdad. Lying on the rail line to Turkey, Syria and Lebanon, it is a center of trade to the west, especially in wool. Associated with this trade are industries such as the cleaning and packing of wool and the tanning of hides. In addition, there is a sizeable cotton and rayon textile industry, both factory and handicraft. It is an old city and formerly the capital of the Turkish Vilayet of Mosul; it does not appear to be growing.

Basra, the port on the Shatt al Arab, is really a complex of three towns situated a few miles apart: Magil, the modern sea and air port; Ashar, an older port; and Basra proper. Apart from its

7: International Bank N. S-4 (1951) 1952 MH1 Iraq MH1

port traffic and such associated activities as the packing of dates, cleaning of barley and flour-milling (a new industry), Basra is closely bound up with the development of the new oil field at Zubair, some 10 miles inland. Basra, like Baghdad, received a large influx of people during the war, especially from nearby Amara.

The population of Kirkuk, the fourth city, is believed to have tripled in the last 25 years as a consequence of the development of Iraq's major oil field. The two holy cities in Kerbela province, Kerbela and Nejf, have a large transient population due to pilgrim traffic from Iran and other Moslem countries. These two cities have many handicraft workers in such trades as jewelry, brass-work and embroidery.

These six cities, together with Amara, are the only ones with a population of over 40,000. With a few exceptions, such as Khanaqin with its small oil field and refinery, the other municipalities function primarily as centers of administration and trade for surrounding districts. Broadly speaking, their size varies with their administrative importance. Of the provincial capitals, other than those already mentioned, five have a population between 20,000 and 40,000 and three between 10,000 and 20,000. Of the remaining municipalities, none has a population exceeding 20,000; less than 30, most of them centers of *qadhas*, have a population of more than 6,000.

Despite differences in size and function, the cities and towns have a number of characteristics in common. The older parts are usually congested with narrow streets and alleys. Houses are built around courtyards, the only opening to the street being the main doorway. The houses usually have a flat roof or a partially open second story for sleeping outside in the summer. Brick is the commonest building material; most of the larger towns have brick-works nearby, many of which are small and primitive. There are also a few modern concrete and steel buildings, mainly in Baghdad. Schools and hospitals can be found in the heart of these congested areas. An important section in every city is the *Suq* or bazaar, a network of alleys, often covered by crude roofs forming a series of arcades. These alleys are lined with the small shops of retail merchants and handicraft workers in textiles and metals. The *Suq* is usually located near the principal mosque.

8:Campbell T-5 (no date) 1949 MH1 Iraq MH1

TALES FROM THE ARAB TRIBES

1. The Story of Hajji Ali, the Great Sultan and his Son, the Amir Kbeyyun

The Maadan. Page 12, Line 17. 'The Maadan shall bring milk.'

The Maadan are in the main a tribe of poor families, living in scattered communities on the shores of that great area of marsh and lake which lies between the Tigris and the Euphrates before the two rivers finally join to form the Shatt el Arab. Maadan villages often acknowledge the authority of sheikhs of neighbouring tribes, and they have no great tradition of their own. Their chief source of wealth was in the past their large herds of water buffaloes, their income being derived from the sale of milk and its products, lebn (a kind of curd), and clarified cooking butter. The sale of milk is regarded as shameful by most tribes, though of course all produce enough for their own requirements. In consequence the Maadan, with their trade in milk and hides, are looked down on by the tribes, and they are said to be lacking in honour. However in the last twenty-five years the Maadan have acquired large areas of agricultural land, and they are sharing fully in the increasing wealth of South Iraq. As for their honour, I remember a fight three years ago which took place between two Maadan subsections not far from Qarmat Ali, just outside Basra. This was a fight for a woman's honour in the best tribal tradition in which nothing was lacking either in the number of rounds of ammunition expended or in the casualties to bring it fully up to the standard of the great tribes in these matters.

2. A Story Concerning the Ignorance of Slaves

Slaves.

'Abd, or slave, is a slang expression in South Iraq for a Negro, and does not now indicate an actual slave. Slavery continued in Iraq to the end of Ottoman rule, 83 years after its abolition in the British Empire. In this story, therefore, the word would refer to actual slaves, and I have so translated it. The word 'habshi' (lit. 'Abyssinian') is little used in South Iraq, a Negro being referred to as a 'sambo' or 'abd'.

Crocodile. Page 20, Line 3. 'In that river was a crocodile.'

The word used was 'timsah', or crocodile, of which of course there are none in Iraq. I do not know if this indicates that this story

Iraq MH1
5: Harrison D-4 (1912-1924) 1924 M1 Middle East
Iraq Bedouin MH8

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As compared with the southern district the northern part of Mesopotamia grows only a small amount of dates. There are a few gardens around each city, which furnish fresh dates for local consumption during the season, but in this region water has to be raised from the river to the ground level by animals, by the method in use in Arabia. The gardens are small and confined to the river-side and are of no real significance in the economic support of the country. These northern regions are not devoid of rainfall, and a meager return is secured by sowing wheat and barley on unirrigated land. Such cultivation, however, is uncertain, and in about one year out of every three the crop is a dead failure.

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The great mass of the people are nomadic or semi-nomadic. Everywhere there can be found pasturage for the nomad's flocks and herds and wells for the watering of stock. Many of the Bedouin nomads engage in agriculture occasionally in good seasons. Even among those who refuse to degrade themselves by becoming agriculturists of any degree, the standards of life are considerably higher than among the Bedouins of Central Arabia. The supply of forage is more abundant, and their flocks of camels and sheep and goats are very large. These nomads have better clothes, very much more abundant food, and in every way live a more tolerable life than that of their brothers in the Central Arabian desert. Horses are common in Mesopotamia. They are a luxury but not such a tax on the resources of the owner as farther south, for there are always forage and water for them. Every Arab of position expects to own and ride one; otherwise he loses caste. Arab horses are beautiful animals and are trained as household pets, much as a fine dog is trained with us. They are ridden without saddle

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21: Fisher S-4 (no date) 1950 M1 Middle East
Iraq MH1

Only three cities, Baghdad, Mosul, and Basra, have a total population exceeding 100,000. *Baghdad* (population 1943, 300,000) lies on the Tigris at the head of navigation of the river, and in the 'waist' of the lowlands, where the Tigris and Euphrates approach closely to each other, and hence give the best possibility of constructing irrigation canals. This narrow inter-riverine zone also provides a convenient crossing-place, since the marshland is reduced in extent and the firmer platform of steppeland provides a useful east-west route between the Mediterranean and Iran. The region of Baghdad thus has an important nodal position at the junction of routes from east and west across the desert, and from north, north-east, and south along the river valleys. It should be noted that all the factors mentioned above apply to a region and not to an actual site.

It is easy to see why a town should have grown up within the district of Baghdad, but the extra smaller scale features that usually fix the site of a town in one particular spot are less in evidence. Local changes in topography due to the shifting of drainage channels have led to the growth of three separate cities at various periods, and so within the Baghdad region there has arisen first Babylon, the ancient capital that lay closer to the Euphrates, some 60 miles to the south of modern Baghdad. Babylon was in turn succeeded by Ctesiphon, only a few miles from Baghdad, and this city remained the nodal centre until superseded by Baghdad in the early Muhammadan era. Baghdad itself dates only from the 8th century A.D., and a 'golden age' occurred when its Abbasid rulers supplanted the Omeyyads of Damascus and made it the capital of the Moslem world. Baghdad suffered greatly from Mongol invasion, and most of the older buildings have disappeared. The modern city is sprawling and undistinguished—in fact, an extreme disappointment to visitors who may wish to evoke the 'Arabian Nights'. Many of the poorer houses are of mud, and flooding is a frequent feature (Fig. 65).

Baghdad is the commercial centre of the region, with numerous, but small workshops and distributing houses. Industry is, as we have seen, mainly confined to bazaar crafts—textiles, metals, foodstuffs—and to the production of pottery and building materials. Trade is for the most part in the hands of Europeans, Jews, and Armenians, with Iraqi Christians as clerks and supervisors. An upper class—mainly Sunni Moslems—carries on the administration of the country; and a third element in the life of the city is a large group of absentee landlords.

21: Fisher S-4 (no date) 1950 M1 Middle East
Iraq MH1

regions for which it acts as commercial outlet and exchange centre. These regions are :

(*a*) The plains of northern Assyria, where there is a dense agricultural population.

(*b*) The hills of Kurdistan, occupied by shepherds practising transhumance.

(*c*) The steppes of the Jezireh, where there is a mixed population of true nomads rearing sheep, cattle and draught animals ; and sedentary farmers.

(*d*) The uplands of the Jebel Sinjar, where pastoralism and agriculture are carried on by the Yezidi.

As a result, there is extreme heterogeneity of peoples within the city. Arabs are in the majority, with smaller groups of Kurds, Christians, Jews, and Yezidi, most of whom speak their own languages. An important mediaeval textile industry (note the word *muslin*) has now disappeared, though coarser textiles using wool as a raw material are still produced in the bazaars, and a recent feature has been the introduction of artificial silk weaving. Mosul is also important for leather working—a reflexion of its position on the edge of the steppe. Manufacturing is, however, less important than trade : grain, timber, hides, and manufactured goods are exchanged, and there are long distance communications with Baghdad and south-east Turkey. Much of the produce from Turkey comes by kelek (page 364).

Basra is an agglomeration of small sites grouped along the western bank of the Shatt el Arab some 70 miles upstream from the Persian Gulf. Basra proper is situated on a small creek 2 miles distant from the Shatt el Arab, and the principal port is at Ashar, on the main river. Modern docks have also been constructed at Maqil, 4 miles upstream from Ashar, and since 1939, further development has taken place at Tanuma on the eastern bank of the Shatt el Arab, opposite Ashar. Because of the recession of the head of the Persian Gulf, the growth of the port is relatively recent, and dredging on a considerable scale is necessary to prevent silting of the channel. Basra handles the greater proportion of the foreign trade of Iraq, and is the centre of the date-growing region, being itself surrounded by date-groves. Dates form the chief item in its export trade. Second in importance amongst exports is grain, with wool, liquorice root, and hides as subsidiaries. Imports consist chiefly of manufactured goods (cement, cotton and woollen textiles, machinery), tea, and sugar. Basra can be reached by large ocean going ships, but about 10 per cent. of its commerce is still carried on in small native craft.

241 commercial crops in the rain-fed zones of the north; dates, cereals and cotton, in the south. The date-palm groves in the irrigated lands along the Shatt al Arab and the Euphrates rivers, and in scattered areas along the Tigris, furnish almost one third of the 233 world's supply of dates. Sheep, goats, cattle and other livestock are raised in large numbers by the nomadic and the seminomadic 439 peoples. The chief agricultural exports are dates, barley and other grains, cotton, wool, hides and licorice: this last-named item grows wild in many localities in the south. 242 The government is promoting the adoption of modern methods of farming and animal husbandry and the expansion of irrigation facilities. It operates special agricultural schools and experimental farms in different parts of the country, as well as a date research station near Basra. Within the last few years it has initiated settlement and demonstration projects on state lands at Dujayla, near Kut; at Shahrizor, near Sulaimaniya; at Huwaija, near Kirkuk; and at Sinjar, near Mosul.

125 With the exception of the oil reserves, the mineral resources of Iraq are negligible. Small deposits of lignite, gypsum, sulfur and other minerals are known to exist in the north, while salt beds are found in widely 472 distributed areas. Industrial development is 438 slight, in spite of the impetus supplied by the shortage of materials during the recent war years. Small craft industries flourish in the urban centers, and a few modern factories have been established in Baghdad and Mosul for the processing of local products. These consist primarily of plants for the manufacture of textiles, cement, bricks, distilled liquors, soaps and cigarettes.

135 The petroleum industry has expanded rapidly since the discovery of oil, in 1927, at Baba Gurgur, in the Kirkuk region. The reserves, which are reputed to be among the richest in the Middle East, provide a pri- 471 mary source of wealth for the country. The Iraq Petroleum Company holds concessions, originally granted in 1925, covering the lands east of the Tigris River and north